



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO URGES ADULTS TO
DRAW THE LINE AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING
Proclaims May 1-June 15 Safe Prom and Graduation Season***

PHOENIX – High school prom and graduation season is typically accompanied by a spike in underage drinking. Underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined. Recent statistics show that in 2006, 714 youths under the age of 21 were killed nationwide in alcohol-related traffic fatalities during prom and graduation season (April, May, June).

With high school prom and graduation season upon us, Governor Janet Napolitano has declared May 1 – June 15, 2008 as Safe Prom and Graduation Season. Arizonans of all ages are encouraged to *Draw the Line* against underage drinking and help ensure safe, alcohol-free prom and graduation celebrations for Arizona's youth.

"Underage drinking is not a rite of passage – even on prom or graduation night," said Governor Napolitano. "The law couldn't be clearer; it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol. In addition, there are countless health consequences of underage drinking. Parents and other adults must draw the line against underage drinking and help youth find safe, alcohol-free ways to celebrate."

Studies overwhelmingly indicate that parents have enormous power in preventing substance abuse. In fact, according to the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, youth say parental disapproval is a key reason they choose not to drink before age 21.

The Century Council, Partnership for a Drug-Free America and other national organizations recommend some of the following tips to help parents draw the line during prom and graduation:

- Make sure your teen has a plan for the evening and that you know that plan
- Know all of the 'hot spot' destinations
- Take stock of the alcohol in your home
- Communicate with other parents and school officials about prom rules
- Know who is driving and encourage seatbelt use
- Stay up for your teen's return home from the celebration

Parents and adults can learn more about how to *Draw the Line*, at www.drawyourline.com. For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.